



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger
Secretary

For Immediate Release
October 24, 2003

Contact: Tiffany Dickerson
Cindy Fanning
Telephone: 225.219.3967
214.665.2142

Environmental News

DEQ Continues Progress on EPA Performance Measures

(Baton Rouge)-- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 report progress in improving DEQ's management of air quality and water pollution control programs.

In response to citizen group concerns, EPA, DEQ, and Gov. M.J. "Mike" Foster identified performance measures to improve DEQ's programs. When DEQ has completed its tasks, the public should find improvements in data quality and better accessibility to permitting and enforcement information in the air and water programs.

EPA Regional Administrator Richard Greene said, "EPA is encouraged by the progress made so far by DEQ in the water and air programs. We will continue to work with DEQ toward completion of all of the performance measures."

DEQ Secretary L. Hall Bohlinger said, "Several of the performance measures were identified through the Governor's Task Force review; therefore, these actions have either been accomplished earlier than required or are on target for completion within the agreements reached by the Agency and EPA. DEQ regards environmental program authorization very seriously and is enthusiastically working to meet our commitment."

DEQ has already exceeded its midpoint performance measure target for issuing major water permits and almost doubled its midpoint commitment for minor water permits. EPA has approved DEQ's Water Permit Issuance Strategy, a major component in the water program. DEQ has also submitted its water discharge permit authorization documents to EPA for review.

While DEQ has made substantial progress on the performance measures, there is still work to be done in both the water and air programs, and DEQ and EPA are working together to accomplish the goals.